

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 12-20, and 23 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 21, 24-28, and 31 have been amended. New claims 32-33 have been added. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 21-22, and 24-33 are currently pending in the application.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11 and 31 for allegedly containing typographical errors. Specifically, the Examiner contended that the term "provisionable" should have been "provisional". Applicant respectfully disagrees. The intended term in claims 11 and 31 is "provisionable". This term is used in various parts of the Specification (e.g. page 1, lines 19-21). The use of this term in the claims is consistent with the use of the same term in the Specification. Thus, Applicant submits that there are no typographical errors in claims 11 and 31, and requests that this objection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 8 and 28 have been amended to remove any indefiniteness that may have previously existed. Therefore, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 3-7 and 23-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement.

Accordingly, the limitations of claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Other amendments, which Applicant does not believe negate patentability, have also been made to claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the art of record. Applicant further submits that claims 2 and 4-11, which depend from claim 1, are likewise patentable over the art of record.

Similarly, the limitations of claim 23 have been incorporated into independent claim 21. Other amendments, which Applicant does not believe negate patentability, have also been made to claim 21. Applicant submits that claim 21, as amended, is patentable over the art of record. Applicant further submits that claims 22 and 24-31, which depend from claim 21, are likewise patentable over the art of record.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 32 and 33 have been added to claim the invention with the breadth and scope to which Applicant believes he is entitled. Applicant submits that claims 32 and 33 are patentable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including any art that has been cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all of the pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA EFS-WEB

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)(1)(ii), I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.6(1)(4) and 1.8(a)(1)(i)(C) on the date indicated below and before 9:00 PM PST.

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